will be made in the Plan, we will try to workout what will be available under the new formula". Chairman also said that "We will have one round more with every State. We will not rush with it. If any State is going to face a serious problem, we will take cognizance of it."

Thorium fuelled nuclear power plants

559. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish nuclear power plants fuelled by thorium in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have since examined the possibility of putting up such power plants in the country; and

(c) if so, to what extent thorium based power plants would be more effective for the security of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir. India's Nuclear Power Programme does envisage large scale use of thorium which has to be converted into fissile Uranium-233 before using it as fuel in the Nuclear Power Plants. Thorium based nuclear reactors are still in the R&D stage and it will be around the year 2000 that various aspects of research will be completed. It is only after that the Government shall examine the schedule for setting up thorium based nuclear power plants keeping in view the overall power situation in the country at that time. Meanwhile, a modest beginning has been made by building small reactors using Uranium-233, as part of our programme on thorium utilization. Purnima-III experimental reactor has been commissioned in November 1990 at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and 30 KW Kamini reactor will go critical soon at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research at Kalpkkam.

(c) With the increased demand for power in future, the thorium based nuclear power plants will offer a better alternative to the country because of the larger availability of thorium as compared to uranium.

ULFA militants in Assam

560. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of ULFA militants apprehended by the Army in Assam so far;

(b) whether it is a fact that the arrested persons are only innocent people and not ULFA militants; and

(c) if so, by when such arrested innocent persons would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) As per information available upto 24-12-1990, 486 ULFA militants were apprehended by the Army.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Where it is revealed that the person arrested has no links with ULFA, he is released.

People killed in Punjab and Assam

561. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people killed by the militants in Punjab during the last twelve months;

(b) the number of persons killed in Assam by ULFA during the same period; and

(c) the reasons for which the Disturbed Area Act and the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act have not been promulgated in Punjab?